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On the docket for February

■ 4-H Club members, nearly 2 million of them, are coming together the week of March 3 to 11 to learn the need for their service or, as the airmen say, to be briefed for their mission in 1945.

Last year's slogan, "Feed a fighter or more in '44," became a reality, with food produced to feed 1 million soldiers for a full year; but, as Director Wilson points out to the young folks, they will eat it all in 1945. The eggs, the vegetables, the grains, the fruit, and the meat produced last year are even now vanishing; and there must be more. The letters written in '44 will not boost morale in '45; and the paper gathered, the scrap collected will not provide the materials needed in '46. The blood donated in '44 will not last through '45. No, what was done last year must be repeated this year, with more of it.

Home folks as well as soldiers can see that strength is in teamwork and that a well-organized club can do more working together than individuals can do working separately. 4-H Club Week is the time to rededicate 4-H Clubs to the service of their country, to find out what needs to be done, to carefully map out what can be accomplished and give every rural young person a chance to take part in a 4-H win-the-war project.

IN THIS ISSUE

A future in home demonstration work—something new in visual aids—the milkweed harvest—a broader base for county 4-H Clubs—successful leadership records in Maine and Hawaii—4-H fair in a department store—balanced farming pays in Missouri—radio in youth recruitment for farm work.

Recent events on the war fronts, the need for more manpower in war industry, the continuing need for food, mean that 1945 will be another year of all-out production; and extension agents will again be called upon to recruit 4 million people to supplement the regular farm work force on a full- or part-time basis. This year will probably bring the most serious farm labor shortage since the war started. With the holding of regional emergency labor conferences late in 1944 and early in 1945 and the passage of farm labor legislation in December, making funds available for a 1945 program on about the same basis as 1944, the

A pilot-type conference

■ Although the immediate future calls for production to win the war, for concentration on the war job, there is bound to be an undercurrent of thinking among many groups and individuals of what lies beyond. They are thinking that post-war problems cannot all wait until the last shot is fired. To meet the problems which will surely face a free agriculture and a free country, some way must be developed so that different groups will exchange viewpoints and will understand to some extent the aspirations and the problems of other groups.

With these thoughts in mind, an extension institute was held in Washington on January 4, 5, and 6. The institute concerned itself with the educational phases of post-war programs affecting agriculture. Representatives of national farm, labor, business, welfare, and religious organizations took part, giving their views and programs for winning the war and the peace. Able speakers for the CIO, AFL, Railway Execu-

"go sign" was given. Plans for local recruitment are even now under way in all areas where a labor shortage is anticipated.

Victory Gardens and the 8-point dairy program are again assuming big proportions in local plans this month. The Victory Garden kit of material which will be helpful in local campaigns is now being assembled, and one will be available for each county which requests it through the State extension director. Excellent State publications on the dairy program are being received, such as a recent multilithed letter from Director Anderson to Colorado farmers, which carries on the back the eight points of the dairy program with clever line drawings. Many States are arranging State meetings and dairy short courses.

tives Association, U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, the Grange, and other groups showed wide divergence on some things but remarkably close agreement on others. For example, most agreed that full employment was essential for prosperity of all groups in the post-war world. The third day was devoted entirely to educational problems.

The work of the Committee on Post-war Agricultural Policy of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities was outlined by Noble Clark, associate director of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, who presented the viewpoint of the association and discussed the committee's report, now available in printed form from the agricultural colleges in each State.

It is hoped that this pilot type of conference can serve as a trail blazer on the educational road toward better group understanding of the important post-war problems.

Opportunities for service in home demonstration work

M. L. WILSON, Director of Cooperative Extension Work

■ Home demonstration work, like all wartime public service, today is approaching the cross road between Victory and peace. We are still engaged in mustering human sinew and physical resources on the civilian front to bolster the armor and courage of our troops on the fighting fronts, but the thinking we are doing now and the decisions we are making will be reflected in our post-war home and family life.

If we are to look forward to a greater extension home demonstration service, it is time that we take active steps for the professional improvement of our work. The many methods and techniques learned to date in extension teaching should, by all means, be continued. But we are now about to enter a period in which we must recognize that there are problems of education which cannot be met entirely through demonstrations and other techniques we in Extension know so well. To tackle some of the more abstract problems, it may be necessary to experiment boldly on the frontier of new educational devices.

Meeting the Big Problems

The broader program of the future should, of course, make full use of the tools we have developed. Home demonstration work, as we have become accustomed to think of it, teaches practices that apply to big problems. It does this in specific units which too frequently we fail to tie together into a big unified approach to meet the entire problem.

Meal planning, cooking, home food preservation, all these are units contributing toward better family health and a solution of the larger problems of farm families. But rural people too often say they are learning to can corn, learning to make an apron, instead of "Our home demonstration unit is working on better health, on improving community life." It is one of the big jobs of extension agents to see that rural people are made aware of these larger needs and what they as a group can do about them.

Among the bigger jobs, I would place emphasis on improving rural elementary schools, on increasing participation in church and community affairs, on establishing better rural libraries and library service, on furthering participation in rural health and civic improvement programs.

In the post-war years, a good home demonstration agent will need more than her demonstration kit and equipment. She should be able to sit down with a group of farm women and say: "Here are some facts on education in our community; here are some facts on health. What can be done to see to it that our children get a decent opportunity for education—to see that they have an equal chance with the children in the city? What can be done to solve a certain health problem?" And she should be able to get some good discussion. Home demonstration extension work has, in my opinion, a greater responsibility to take action in developing better rural schools and rural health programs. Such programs must be co-operative with other agencies, it is true; but our leadership can do much to make them a reality.

A survey of the work actually being done by home demonstration agents, now in progress, shows among other things that home demonstration agents are carrying a full schedule of worth-while activities and that the activities of at least 80 percent include cooperative programs with many different organizations. But the percentage of time devoted to such cooperative programs is very small. The survey does not attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of such contacts with rural groups; but the activities listed lead us to believe that, in many instances, time is devoted to teaching specific homemaking skills never adequately related to the larger problems of rural families.

Home demonstration agents have devoted much time to teaching nutrition and have related such teaching to health; but in the realm of other important rural problems, such as are

incident to better family relations and to community development, we find less evidence of activities aimed directly at these problems. About one-fourth of the agents, reporting the use of their time during 1 week, which was used as the unit of measurement, worked on better family relationships; about one-sixth of them recorded any time spent on activities which we would associate with improving community life. The total time per week which could be attributed directly to these two phases of extension was, on the average, about 2 hours out of 50.

About 64 percent of the agents reported some work with individual rural and urban families not regular members of extension groups; and about 10 percent of the agents worked with new, unorganized groups on special programs such as Victory Gardens and canning. This shows a good beginning, but we need to develop and strengthen this tendency to work with new groups.

Giving a Vision of Leadership

Agents indicated one of their major difficulties to be in procuring and training lay leadership. This raises the question of what constitutes training leaders—what sort of challenge do we put before rural men and women in asking them to serve their groups? Do we urge them to help Extension do its job, or do we give them a vision of community growth and enrichment?

These are just a few of the preliminary findings in a study of the home agent's job which all extension workers will want to read in full when it becomes available. Research of this kind represents an honest self-analysis of our work which can be helpful in planning for the future.

I have much confidence that extension home demonstration work will play an even greater part in the world of tomorrow than it has in the past 30 years. They report the chief satisfaction they get from their jobs is working with people to help them achieve a better, fuller life. To continue to help rural people, agents must prepare to meet the more abstract problems of better homes, community life, civic planning, medical care, health facilities, education, religion, and recreation, in addition to the practical skills of better homemaking.

Something new in visual aids

NEIL F. BLAIR, Assistant Extension Editor, Idaho

■ This mobile audio-visual unit carries sight and sound training into the far corners of Idaho and is now on its first run—a farm labor-saving tour.

The truck has projection equipment for utilization of every means of visual aid in teaching and is fitted with self-contained power-generating equipment, screens, amplifiers, and horns.

Three means of projection are possible. Projection of films, slides, sound motion pictures, and strips is possible by mirror projection to a screen mounted on top of the truck. A translucent screen mountable at the rear doors provides projection in daylight, and the use of the portable projection equipment is possible under any auditorium conditions. Two projector units are carried permitting continuous projection in the professional theater manner where such projection is desired.

A 30-watt amplification system is also mounted in the truck. This can be used in many different ways. The amplification and mixing of sound to make radio transcriptions and record sound on film are being widely used on the present tour.

It will be used as a public address system (both mobile and stationary)

for 4-H fairs, farm tours, and county fairs, mixing voice and music for fair purposes. Motion pictures can be shown in the farm home yard regardless of power supply or light conditions.

Floodlights, special demountable poles for carrying overhead cables, special measuring sticks for comparative crop-yield pictures, cables for power, microphone and horn connections, as well as the projection units themselves, are carried in specially built cabinets within the panel compartment of the truck. The seat next to the driver's seat is removable, allowing it to be turned in any direction within the unit for easy manipulation of the equipment. Facilities have been provided for additional machines and equipment as progress is made in the audio-visual fields, radio, F.M. broadcasting and television.

The portable generator which provides 3,000 watts of electric power can be operated within the truck or at a remote point. It will operate all the lighting equipment and projectors.

Motion-picture cameras in 16-millimeter size and still-picture cameras in 4 by 5 inch and 35-millimeter sizes are carried. The unit has been designed to include every possible

means of sound and sight coverage of an event.

President Dale of the university authorized construction of the unit and assigned it to the college of agriculture. Dean E. J. Iddings, director of extension, approved the initial use in conjunction with the Extension Service's farm and home labor-saving exhibit.

It was built in the university shops under the supervision and direction of Hobart Beresford, agricultural engineer, and Neil F. Blair, assistant extension editor.

Garden school of the air

The outstanding success of a Texas Fall Garden School of the Air assures future schools-by-air-broadcast on other agricultural topics of general interest. Enrollment for the first school totaled 6,147, and communications revealed that large numbers of other gardeners heard the broadcasts but did not seek enrollment.

A poll among the enrollees showed greatest interest in poultry for the next extension school of the air. Other listeners asked for assistance with spring gardening, home canning, food preparation, orchard and swine production. Others wanted dairying, home sewing, flower gardening, bee culture, and meat curing.

Study of the results showed enrollments came from 212 Texas counties and from 8 other States including Indiana, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Of those reporting, 70 percent lived on farms, 14 percent in towns of less than 2,500, and 16 percent in larger cities. The check showed that as a result of the school many gardeners reported increased use of fertilizer, better insect control, improved preparation of garden plots, and numerous other approved gardening practices.

Harris County led the State in enrollments with 543, and Eastland County was second with 203. Bastrop, Fisher, Fort Bend, Harrison, Hunt, Leon, Tarrant, Upshur, Waller, and Zavala Counties each had more than 100 enrollees.

The school was a feature of the Texas Farm and Home Hour broadcast from the college each weekday at 6:02 a.m. through stations in Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio.

The persons shown, reading from left to right, are: Dean E. J. Iddings, director of extension; Harrison C. Dale, president of the University of Idaho, who is testing the amplifier; and Prof. Hobart Beresford, agricultural engineer, who supervised construction.





Boys and girls harvest milkweed

■ When an urgent call went out for milkweed floss to make life belts and aviators' jackets, the young folks in the country took over the assignment, and such a combing of roadsides and fields for milkweed pods never was seen before.

South Dakota early sent in an SOS for more bags. It takes two bags to hold a bushel of dry pods—enough to make one life jacket. It was easy to see that it would take a lot of picking to get enough to meet the need; but 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, and school children all pitched in.

Under the supervision of 4-H Club local leaders in north Sebastian County, Ark., 37 boys and girls picked enough floss to save the lives of 68 servicemen, reports Carroll S. Morrow, county agent. In Wells County, Ind., the original goal of 1,200 bags was soon raised to 4,000, or enough to equip a whole battleship with life jackets. The local American Legion post gave prizes of \$4, \$2, and \$1 to those picking the largest number of bags; and the milkweed pods kept rolling in.

One rural school in Wisconsin with 12 pupils gathered more than 220 bags of pods. From this school in

the hills of Waukesha County, a brother and sister, Bobby and Shirley Stocks, gathered 22 bags and won a \$25 war bond.

Shawano County in Wisconsin sent 3 carloads to Michigan for processing; and altogether the children of Wisconsin sent the total soaring to 430,000 sacks, or way over their federally suggested goal of 300,000 bags. Highway trucks picked up the bags dried at the schools, and any sunshiny autumn day nearby fences were loaded with drying pods. Fairgrounds were used to store the bags until shipment was made.

A special meeting of the county board was called in Shawano County to organize the campaign. Each member took charge in his township or village. Rural schools and high schools, 4-H Clubs, conservation clubs, and civic organizations took part. Twenty-five members of the Shawano Service Club went out in a group for 2 hours Monday and collected 108 bags of pods. Some schools gathered as many as 500 bags.

A drying yard was established at the forest ranger station in Bowler where the bags were hung on a fence

to dry for 3 or 4 weeks, or longer if it rained. County Agent Wallin says the county had a dense milkweed growth in the western part and that although the county was not advertising its weeds, it really went after them.

Twelve boys, members of the Field and Farm 4-H Club of Glastonbury really made a record for Connecticut, harvesting 240 bags under the leadership of Ray Bidwell.

The Glastonbury club, on a hunt for milkweed, discovered about 15 acres of meadowland near the Connecticut River where the plant grew in great abundance. After picking about 150 bushels of pods, it was decided that the job was too big for the club to handle alone. One hundred and thirty boys from the local school volunteered to assist in "cleaning up" the remaining pods. The plot netted a total of more than 300 bags of pods.

The 240 bags collected by the 4-H Club, plus 160 harvested by the schoolboys, were hung on wires over a tobacco field. On the day of the hurricane, Mr. Bidwell and his father, with help of a few of the boys, took down all bags and put them in a tobacco shed. The next day, the pods had to be hung up again. The money received for the pods will be used to finance a poultry project for each of the members of the club.

Two other clubs, the Beckley Patriots of Berlin and the West End Junior Farmers of Rocky Hill, both under the leadership of William Burpee, also took an active part in the campaign. The Junior Farmers collected 165 bags; and the Patriots harvested 50 bags.

Club organizes chorus

Believing that interest in music is one way of overcoming war jitters, the Mill Creek home demonstration club members of Melbourne, Izard County, Ark., have organized a chorus of 30 women's voices, says Mrs. Anne H. Harper, home demonstration agent.

Harry Fritz, local voice teacher, who has studied in Chicago and New York, is directing the chorus.

The chorus rehearses one night a week. A fee of \$1 per member is charged per month for this training.

The chorus is practicing on popular, sacred, and classical music so that it may appear on any type of program.

Covering more ground with 4-H Club work

ROBERT H. RUMLER, County Agent, Lycoming County, Pa.

■ In the face of ever-increasing demands for the time of extension workers, they are nevertheless striving to increase the efficiency and the coverage of the various phases of the extension program. This is particularly true in the field of 4-H Club work which is so vital to the development of the future rural leadership of this country.

In an effort to increase the scope of the 4-H Club program in Lycoming County, a definite plan was devised whereby the over-all educational program of 4-H Club work could be expanded. As many 4-H Club members enroll for the same or similar projects year after year, it was felt that their training along strictly project lines was entirely too narrow and that a broadening of their training to include other agricultural subjects would be most worth while to them. This is especially important if they are to become agricultural leaders of their communities.

This expanded program involved the use of all the teaching and publicity mediums available in Lycoming County. Visual education, circular letters, radio, newspapers, and local leadership were all used in the development and execution of the plan.

4-H Club leaders, and other local leaders, 4-H Club members, county agent, and assistant county agent all shared the responsibility of the spring enrollment of 4-H Club members. Following the organization meeting, the responsibility for 4-H Club meetings was divided equally between club leaders and county agents. In this sharing, however, the extension agents assumed the entire responsibility for the teaching of subject matter to club members.

Instead of attending every club meeting, which was previously done, the county agent and assistant attended only half of the club meetings during alternate months. The program of the meetings attended by the extension men included only limited discussion of project work at the time the 4-H Club members gave their individual project reports. Each per-

son's project was discussed with him briefly and recommendations made for the continuation of this project work. During the remainder of the evening program, movies or slides prepared by extension specialists of the Pennsylvania State College were shown to and discussed with the members. The subject of these discussions was in most instances entirely different from the project work carried by the club members, although it dealt directly with some important agricultural problems within the community.

Through the use of visual aids at club meetings, it was possible to broaden the point of view and knowledge of the members in a way that was also entertaining to them. Alert, wide-awake farm boys and girls cannot view a movie on The Principles of Dairy Cattle Feeding or The Importance of Erosion Control without picking up one or two important ideas which could be put into practice on their own home farms. This is the principle on which the constant use of visual aids at 4-H Club meetings is based.

Broad Program Adds Interest

As all the agricultural club work in Lycoming County is organized on a community rather than on a project basis, such a visual program of instruction is very helpful in maintaining the interest of all club members in the 4-H Club meetings. The discussion of one particular project would be of interest to only a relatively few in attendance.

Realizing that all 4-H Club leaders are busy people, assistance was also given in the preparation of programs for those meetings that were not attended by the county agent or assistant county agent. With some assistance from W. S. Jeffries, assistant State 4-H Club leader, several standard types of program were developed, which included all the information necessary for the club meeting. These programs were sent to club leaders and officers at least a week preceding the time of the meeting for which

they were responsible. From these program outlines and helps, they were able to arrange an interesting club meeting without devoting too much of their time to the development of a program.

Probably the most important link in the county-wide plan for broadening the agricultural knowledge of 4-H Club members was the use of the radio. Contrary to general belief, it was found that specific and detailed instruction could be given to club members through the medium of radio with little or no confusion on their part.

Preceding the inauguration of weekly 4-H Club radio broadcasts (4-H Club meetings of the air) for subject-matter instruction, a trial program was presented to determine the effectiveness of radio as a means of teaching the details of project work.

It was most interesting to learn that details such as the number of feet of hopper space required per hundred capons, the type of vitamin D supplement to use on dairy calves, methods of building water troughs for pigs, and similar detailed instruction could be presented without fear of complication. The other distinct advantage in using the radio as the principal means of subject-matter teaching was the timeliness of the information presented. Any emergency which arose could be easily and completely cared for with reasonable certainty that the vast majority of club members would get the necessary information. Contrasting this with the possibility of waiting until all the 4-H Club groups met—a period of a month—it can be readily appreciated that this part of the program was extremely important.

To be certain that the specific details of project requirements and completions were in the hands of every 4-H Club member, circular letters were used, in addition to the means mentioned above.

In this plan, which was developed for the 4-H agricultural club members of Lycoming County, there is nothing new, with the possible exception of the radio phase of the program. However, the organization of all the details into one complete working program made it possible for the extension representatives to use their time more efficiently and at the same time broaden the teaching of 4-H Clubs.

400 neighborhood leaders aid Extension in St. John Valley

How neighborhood leaders have worked in the northern tip of Aroostook County, Me., is told here by Clarence A. Day, Maine extension editor.

■ Until a generation ago, the upper St. John Valley, on the northern tip of Maine from Grand Falls to the Allagash, was a bit of old France set down in New England; and most of the French characteristics still prevail. The original settlers were Acadians from Ste. Anne's near the present Frederickton, New Brunswick, and earlier came there from the Basin of Minas and Beau Pre in the land of Evangeline. Indeed, Madame Le Blanc, "Great Aunt of Madawaska," claimed near relationship with the family of Basil, the Blacksmith.

French to the core, and twice driven from their homes by the English, they clung with determined tenacity to the habits, customs, language, and religion of their homeland. As their settlements grew on both sides of the River St. John, they were joined by French immigrants from Canada; and their offspring became, as Father Thomas Albert, their own local historian, so happily phrases it: "not Acadians nor Canadians, but Madawaskans." Madawaska, the name of the first settlement, became the general name for all the settlements in the upper St. John Valley.

For 50 years the Madawaska settlements were almost completely isolated from contact with both the United States and Canada. Then came the bloodless Aroostook War over the northeastern boundary between Maine and Canada. When it was over and the boundary was located in the channel of the St. John, the Madawaskans found theirs a divided land, half in one country and half in another. They accepted the situation with a shrug of the shoulder, and those living south of the river became loyal Americans.

Fifty years more and came the railroad, and with it came changes. A lot of little farms became big farms, and the "Valley" became an important part of Aroostook's mighty potato empire. But the people remained

much the same. Although more progressive than their forefathers, who had had so little opportunity for progress, they still remain French at heart. Naturally warm-hearted and hospitable, they are still somewhat suspicious of strangers until the strangers have proved themselves.

Not much extension work in home economics had been done in the Valley prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. Aroostook is by far the largest county in Maine. There was but one home demonstration agent; and the extension headquarters are at Presque Isle, 60 miles from Madawaska. Consequently, the local women were not familiar with the extension organization.

Mrs. Barry Made Personal Calls

This is the background against which Mrs. Etta Barry, emergency home demonstration agent, built up an efficient neighborhood leader system which includes 200 neighborhoods, 30 chairmen, and 400 neighborhood leaders.

Because of its newness, most of the work of organization had to be done by personal calls. Mrs. Barry would go into town and interview the leading persons to find out who were good prospects for neighborhood leaders. Then she would call on the prospects, explain to them the purpose of the organization, and if her own judgment of the prospect was favorable, ask her to serve as a leader. In this work of getting acquainted, Mrs. Barry had the advantage of being of French extraction herself, being able to speak the language fluently and being a long-time resident of Fort Kent, one of the principal towns in the Valley. Part of her neighborhood visits were made on foot because of the condition of the roads at the season when the calls were made.

"Every call I made was a new experience," she relates. "The best part of the organizing was that which I did on foot. In that way I could

judge exactly how far any leader would enjoy walking to the farthest member of her group. I also had a chance to visit more people, and I stopped at homes that appealed to me as a chance to get information and talk about extension work.

"The leaders get most of their information from two extension publications, The Digest and Victory Chats. The leader either passes these publications from one member to another or discusses personally with group members the information they contain. These little publications contain information on soils, seed, crop rotation, dairy nutrition, food values, wartime regulations, child care, and other subjects. In many cases, they are the only publications that reach these people.

"Group members often go to their leaders with their problems of one kind or another. The leader, if she cannot settle the problem herself, contacts the home demonstration agent. Most of the problems are on the spoilage of home-canned food. If it is one the leader can answer herself, she does so and gives literature on the subject to her neighbor. Not long ago a woman went to her leader to find out the reason why she had lost some 20 quarts of canned meat. The leader got in contact with the home demonstration agent who, although she was not able to save the meat, could tell the woman the cause of spoilage. New closures bothered the women. One complained to her leader that the metal caps would not stick after processing. The leader found that she had been using the caps upside down. The leaders have done a good job getting new canning methods through to their groups.

"Information on sugar rationing is given out through the leaders, who have helped many women with their canning-sugar problems. One group of women complained to their leader that caterpillars were defoliating their fruit trees. The home demonstration agent got information for them from Extension on how to deal with the pests.

"Considerable stress has been placed on child care and child feeding, for well-fed children are the foundation of a strong country. During the winter months, some 32 meetings were held along the River on the 'Care of the Sick.'"

1,000 children learn to cull poultry

■ More than 1,000 Pierce County Wis., youngsters have enthusiastically carried a poultry-culling program into all corners of the county.

County Agent H. G. Seyforth and County Superintendent Mark Saxton planned an extensive campaign to teach every boy and girl in the seventh and eighth grades in the rural schools of the county how to cull poultry and to know the advantages of culling. The young people gathered in 17 different schools to attend the hour and a half extension program on poultry culling.

A demonstration with live birds on how to cull chickens was presented by Gerald Annin, State poultry husbandman, who also described a winter-feeding plan. T. L. Bewick, assistant State 4-H Club leader, outlined the plan by which the school children could arrange with their parents to try out the culling system. The youngsters would take charge of placing the nonlayers in one pen, the layers in another, as taught by Mr.

Annin, to see how well their culling works out in 10 days. If the plan works, they are encouraged to take over full responsibility for the flock during the next year. A profitable business is started with the remaining layers after the nonlayers are sold.

The county superintendent summarized the advantages of culling and showed a 25-minute poultry film.

Four of these meetings were held each day for 5 days. The first meeting began promptly at 9 a. m. As soon as Professor Annin and Superintendent Saxton finished at one school they went on to the next, presented the first half of the program there, and the county agent and Mr. Bewick arrived later to finish with the club talk and the movie.

Each boy and girl who carries out the culling and takes at least some of the responsibility of the flock management earns some credit toward the agricultural work required for promotion from the eighth grade in rural Wisconsin schools.

State fair in a store

■ War conditions which closed the gates of the Oregon State Fair at Salem for the duration also effectively blitized Oregon's usual State 4-H Club home economics show and exhibits both last year and the year before. It appeared that county winners would be unable to participate in a State-wide exhibit again this year; that is, until one of the West's largest department stores heard about it.

Along in the summer, officials of the company in Portland approached H. C. Seymour, State 4-H Club leader in Oregon, and offered the facilities of its large tenth floor auditorium for the club exhibits. Seymour jumped at the offer, but first he needed some awards for the various State winners. Pacific International Livestock exposition officials, who have continued to sponsor the 4-H livestock shows at the Portland stockyards, although the big P-1 exposition itself is another temporary war casualty, immediately agreed to provide the awards for the home economics, crops and other exhibits in addition to the livestock awards.

The State 4-H exhibit was held at the same time as the P-I 4-H livestock show, the second week in October instead of the first week in September, which is usually the date for the State fair. Because of lack of space, entries were confined to the three top winners in each class of exhibits this year. But even so, 1,255 exhibits were shown, nearly half as many as in normal years at the State fair when each county was allowed as many exhibits as there were awards made in each contest.

People of Oregon, and especially Portlanders, seldom have been more conscious of 4-H Club work in a single week. Full-page store advertisements on club work, including pictures of county winners, were used on two days in the *Oregonian* and *Oregon Journal* in Portland, and the exhibits were featured in advertisements in both papers on 2 other days.

Posters throughout the store called attention of the thousands of shoppers to the exhibit in the auditorium. Four large display windows on one of Portland's busiest streets were given over

for a week to prize-winning exhibits.

Helen Cowgill, assistant State 4-H Club leader, said the store offered all the help possible and spared no expense in helping to stage the show. She was given the choice of anything she needed, or wanted, in the 14 stories of the block-square building, from the finest chinaware for the dollar-dinner contest to tables or other equipment for exhibits. Through a store official, the store supplied all of the equipment, including tables, built-in racks, decorations, posters, rugs, platforms, chairs, manikins, and even piped water and gas from the basement to the tenth floor especially for the club show. Thousands and thousands of Portlanders who are accustomed to attending all sorts of events in the store auditorium came and admired the 4-H exhibits.

On the closing day of the exhibit, the daily store bulletin, issued to its thousands of employees, contained this tribute to Oregon 4-H boys and girls:

"During the week we have had one of the most outstanding exhibits ever held in our auditorium. It was an exhibit of the many interests of the 4-H Club boys and girls in homemaking. The thousands who have been visiting these exhibits have been struck with the sincerity and diligence of these young boys and girls—young gardeners who proudly exhibit their produce; teen-age cooks who bake, cook, can, preserve, sew, and carry off the honors that adults would be proud of.

"The 4-H Club, in all its various activities, is definitely a character-building organization. In these times, when we are apt to spotlight juvenile delinquency, it is very encouraging indeed to see hundreds of young boys and girls demonstrating that they know the values of the real things of life. The wholesome attitude of these youngsters, their graciousness and general good manners, their respect for their elders, their pride in work, rank them as fine young American citizens.

"We say goodbye, 4-H-ers, reluctantly. You have every reason to be proud of your fine show. You have made friends for yourselves and for your organization. Your parents, teachers, and leaders may well be proud of you. In saying goodbye, we also extend to you an invitation to be with us again next year."

Balanced farming pays in Missouri

"Missouri's balanced farming program is as good as it looks," said Karl Knaus after a visit in that State during the past summer. While there he visited a demonstration farm in Audrain County with extension agents and farmers.

■ Balanced farming has become popular in Missouri since it was started there, as such, in 1941. It is described as individual farm plans having a goal of a satisfying farm life obtained through good incomes, while at the same time soil fertility is maintained, if not actually boosted.

Albert R. Hagan, Missouri extension economist, tells us how the work has been carried on in his State since it was started. Early in September 1941 a 3-day training conference was held for all members of the resident extension staff of the University. Following this conference series of 3-day training schools for all county extension workers were held throughout the State. At this school complete balanced farming plans for a farm in the vicinity of the conference were worked out by different groups and then discussed and compared.

During the fall and winter a campaign was launched to get farm people interested in developing plans for their own farms. Sets of colored slides, showing how balanced farming systems had been developed on farms in the State, were used at meetings throughout the State which were attended by approximately 50,000 farm people. Newspaper stories, special exhibits at the State Fair and district fairs, and various other methods were used also to attract attention and interest.

Since 1941, through individual assistance to farm families and through balanced-farming schools, approximately 3,600 farm families have started developing balanced farming systems for their farms. Many of these new farming systems are in complete operation. Other farmers, who have started their plans more recently, still have many adjustments to make.

At least one balanced farming system has been started in every county in Missouri, the program probably having made greatest progress in Osage and Warren Counties where plans have been started on from 100 to 300 farms.

Subject-matter specialists in practically all other extension projects actively cooperate with the balanced farming program in the training of new agents, preparation of material, conducting of meetings and demonstrations, preparation of publicity, and planning county extension programs with agents.

Representatives of other agricultural agencies, such as the AAA, Farm Security Administration, Farm Credit Administration, Vocational Agriculture, Rural Electrification Administration, and Internal Revenue Service, as well as terracing and pond-building contractors, bankers, lumber yard dealers, machinery dealers, and shop men, and other organizations and groups, assist with various phases of the balanced farming program.

The 169-acre farm in Audrain County visited by Karl Knaus of the Federal Extension Service is owned by H. O. Baker, Jr., who has been following a definite farm improvement program since 1941. Mr. Knaus accompanied County Agent John W. McClure, III; Blanche P. Drysdale, home demonstration agent; Dr. A. W. Uren, extension veterinarian; Ralph L. Ricketts, extension agricultural engineer; and 28 farmers and wives of 8 of them to see and hear what progress Mr. Baker has made since first making his plans.

Producing Milk Is Main Job

On the Baker farm milk production is the main job, and all farming operations are directed toward improving the efficiency of the Jersey herd. Last year, with 15 cows in production, 91,252 pounds of milk were produced and averaged 19 percent over 1942, or enough to provide 125 soldiers with a quart of milk a day every day of the year. The farm has been able gradually to carry more cattle as a result of the soil- and crop-management program. There were 8 head in 1941, 12 in 1942, 15 in 1943, and 21 in 1944. Not only has the number increased, but the production per head has

gradually increased.

In 1941, when plans were started for a balanced farm system on the Baker farm, most of the fields were severely eroded and too low in fertility to grow legumes and other crops successfully. Fields were not arranged to provide a well-balanced rotation and most of the water was from a hand pump at the barn. Buildings and equipment were not arranged satisfactorily for a dairy.

The dairy herd has been rapidly improved through the use of a good registered bull and the culling of low-producing cows which are detected through the dairy herd-improvement association records. Heifers are retained for herd replacements as they prove their worth.

New facilities for handling the herd include a modern milking parlor built onto the barn in 1941, a milking machine, rearrangement of lot fencing, a silo, and water piped to the barn from a new pond.

More than 9,000 feet of terraces have been constructed and well-sodded waterways have been prepared to handle the terrace water from approximately 55 acres of cropland. All terraced fields are farmed on the contour with the terraces.

To Supplement Native Pastures

Crop rotations have been planned to supplement the native bluegrass pasture, thus saving large quantities of hay and grain. Two 20-acre fields are used for a 2-year rotation of Balbo rye and sweetclover. Each fall, this rotation provided 40 acres of fall pasture including 20 acres of first-year sweetclover and 20 acres of rye. Each spring, 10 acres of the second year sweetclover are pastured off and the remaining 10 acres plowed under and sorgo planted for silage. Two years later the second-year sweetclover, or the other half of the field, is plowed under for sorgo.

Another 20-acre field is used for a 1-year rotation of winter barley and soybeans. The barley crop is pastured in the fall, is harvested for grain in the spring and followed by soybeans to be harvested for hay. An adjoining 20-acre field also is used in a 1-year rotation of oats and lespedeza, providing oats for dairy feed and 20 acres of lespedeza for summer pasture.

Two additional 15-acre fields are in a 1-year small grain and lespedeza

rotation to provide additional small grain and hay or pasture. In addition, there are approximately 45 acres of bluegrass available for spring and late fall pasture.

Near the house are three 2-acre areas that are laid out on the contour to provide a 3-year rotation of corn, small grain, and sweetclover. Through the summer months pullets are ranged on the new clover and when they are put in the laying house in September the range is available for farrowing and pasturing the fall pigs. This same area is used the next spring for spring farrowing and pasturing of livestock. This rotation controls poultry and swine parasites.

The Bakers have also planned how they will fix up the homestead. Re-

cently the house has been wired for electricity. Electricity will also be used for running the milking machine and to cool the milk.

Even with the lack of labor a serious handicap, Mr. Baker has been able to figure out ways of getting the job done with the labor that is available. To do this he has built a poultry range shelter, with large feeders and barrel waterers that need to be serviced less frequently. The farm pond constructed in 1942 at a higher level saves several hours of hard pumping each day as water is piped from it to the barn and chicken yards. Two of his neighbors and Mr. Baker built a tractor buck rake, which saves additional hands when harvesting grains and hay.

every day. Helen has four brothers in the Navy, which may help to explain her attitude toward farm work—"If there wasn't a war," she said, "maybe I wouldn't be doing this job; but, the way I look at it, we all need to do our part and help to hurry this thing to get through."

State VFV Supervisor John R. Fitzsimmons was highly pleased with the results of this contest. It not only meant that the farm labor program was constantly plugged over WHO; but many communities, stimulated by the contest, kept individual and group work records from which many good publicity stories have been gleaned. A tabulation is being made of all the entries for the contest, showing the amount of time they worked during the entire season. Some of the VFV's worked more than 1,000 hours during the summer—an enviable record. Hats off to Station WHO for a program which gave public recognition to the many unsung heroes of the battle for food production.

Town rest rooms

County home demonstration councils in the State, backed by the 10,000 membership of the Colorado Home Demonstration Council, are interested in establishing rest rooms primarily for the use of farm and ranch women and children.

In Larimer County, the town of Loveland opened the shoppers' lounge on November 1. The Loveland Chamber of Commerce will finance the lounge until January 1 when the city council will make budget provisions for a hostess and pay the rent and other expenses.

Mrs. Gerald Hogge, president of the Loveland Council, encourages women in other towns to start a similar project. "We found that merchants and town women were grateful to us for starting the ball rolling," she said. "The lounge, of course, will be open to residents of the town, too."

Furnishings for the shoppers' lounge have been donated by members of various organizations interested in home demonstration work.

One home demonstration club in Loveland will make a mattress for the baby bed. Other clubs are donating funds. Rules governing the use of the building and the authority of the hostess have been worked out by the county council committee and will be posted.

Radio strengthens labor program

■ One of the best uses of radio in the farm labor field last year, according to the VFV office in Washington, was the Iowa Crop Corps Honor Roll program sponsored by Radio Station WHO in Des Moines. Early in the spring, WHO announced that it was offering prizes each month to the organizations that did the best job of recruiting farm workers and to the best individual workers in the State. Each county was asked to send in lists of candidates for the Honor Roll at the end of June, July, August, and September, with short sketches of the work being done by each individual and group.

Prizes ranged from \$50 for the best organization and \$15 for the best individual to merit awards or "honorable mentions," in the form of Victory Farm Volunteer T-shirts. As all of the candidates for the individual awards were Victory Farm Volunteers, the T-shirts were competed for almost as heavily as the cash prizes.

At the end of the season, grand prizes were offered for the whole summer's work, ranging from \$250 for the best organization and a \$50 war bond for the best individual, to VFV T-shirts again. The outstanding VFV's were interviewed on the radio by Herb Plambeck, WHO Farm Editor, and told the story of their summer's work to a large and interested radio audience.

State champion of the entire contest was Melvin Wilbur, a 14-year-old high school boy from Storm Lake,

Iowa. Working on the Shinn farm, some 3 miles from Storm Lake, Melvin and one other man did the work for which Mr. Shinn normally hires three men. Mr. Shinn owns a 240-acre dairy farm, and Melvin's chief responsibility was the operation of the milking machines and care of the cow barn. Besides these regular chores, he did many jobs around the farm and garden, such as haying, weeding, hauling manure, repairing fence and driving the tractor. He averaged 10 to 12 hours a day during the week and also did the chores on Sunday. The Shinn's were so well pleased with this boy, and Melvin liked them, and the work so well that he is staying on this winter, getting up at 5 a. m. to do the milking before he goes to school and getting back in time to do the evening work.

Among the runners-up for State championship were three Jennett brothers, Russel, 17, Clair, 15, and Jack, 14, from Sac City, Iowa. All three worked for different farmers and looked after their farms at various times when the farmers were away. Winner of fifth prize in the seasonal awards and third prize in the month of June was Helen Bruck, 16, of Harlan, Iowa. Helen spent most of her time driving the tractor—plowing, disking, harrowing, and haying. After she had cut the hay, she bunched and helped load it; and, in addition to all these jobs, she did the regular chores of feeding the livestock and milking four to six cows

Leaders help neighbors in Hawaii

ESTHER RUGLAND, Home Agent at Large in Hawaii

■ Seven neighborhood leaders in Ahukini, Kauai, Territory of Hawaii, have for 2 years carried some bit of homemaking information to their neighbors in regular monthly visits.

Forty families live in Ahukini, a small community which had had few extension contacts before the neighborhood-leader group was organized. Each leader volunteered to visit a

were invited to the leader's home, where she in turn demonstrated the bottling of guava juice.

When no mayonnaise was available in local stores, the neighborhood leaders showed many of the families in Ahukini how to make their own.

Demonstrations given and subjects discussed at neighborhood leader training meetings have included: Canning mangoes, first aid for war-

said: "Once in awhile folks don't care to listen to us, but we tell them anyway."

Many of the housewives in Ahukini have jobs outside their homes, or they have small children and so find it inconvenient to attend a regular university extension club. Although the neighborhood leaders' group was planning to serve as a means to distribute emergency information, the group has functioned as a means of giving homemaking information to busy housewives.

During 1945, the regular university extension program subjects to be presented to the neighborhood leaders include demonstrations on better breakfasts, food preservation, laundry, and Christmas suggestions.

Mrs. Tomiko Miyoshi, who is chairman of the group, is also president of the county home extension council which assists in planning university extension and 4-H activities for the entire island. All the training meetings are held at her home.

All in the day's work

Everything that happens in connection with the farm labor program is not all routine or drudgery. While I was in Atlanta attending the 4-H Club Congress, an army major asked at my office where he could find a field of good thick cotton to pick while home on furlough. My efficient secretary was determined that the major would have just what he wanted in the way of a cottonfield. She called upon the clerk to the county commissioners and asked that he help her out in a case of emergency. Thanks to the clerk of the county commissioners for a good field of thick cotton on his own farm and also for transportation to get the major and his 71-year-old father out to the cottonfield.

The clerk to the county commissioners informed me this morning that the major was bareheaded and promptly pulled off his shoes and pitched them down beside the cotton basket. When the day's work was over and the sun had gone down, the total weight of the cotton picked by the major and his father was 265 pounds. That's pretty good "majoring" in the cottonfield from 10:30 until sundown! Could you do as well?—H. C. Williams, Barrow County agent, Georgia.



Part of a group of neighborhood leaders in Ahukini, Kauai, Hawaii, start out to carry important homemaking information to their neighbors.

designated number of families each month after she had attended a method demonstration and discussion meeting conducted by the home demonstration agent. On these visits the leader taught her neighbors what she herself had learned at the demonstration.

During the guava season, the leaders met with the agents and learned to preserve guava juice and make guava jam, jelly, butter, and catsup. Each leader was supplied with a sample of the various products. Following the meeting, leaders visited their neighbors, distributed leaflets on the preservation of guavas, and showed the samples. Housewives interested in seeing a demonstration

time clothing, making home-made silver polish, canning guavas, uses of avocado, Christmas suggestions, making salad dressings, caring for electrical equipment, keeping home accounts, serving better breakfasts, and making children's toys.

For some of the subjects, there is not enough interest to warrant a demonstration by the leader; but gradually the women of the community are becoming interested, and the leaders feel they are contributing their time to a worth-while project.

Homemakers in the community for the most part look forward to the visit of the neighborhood leaders. Occasionally, however, the leaders are not so well received. One leader



HOUSES FOR TOMORROW. *Thomas R. Carskadon*. Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 96. 32 pp. Twentieth Century Fund, New York, 1944.

America is going to need well over a million new houses a year after the war is over. The majority of these dwellings should be medium and low priced, and a large part of them will be needed for rent rather than for sale.

The pamphlet considers what America has spent on housing, what we get for our money, and how many workers are involved. It discusses matters that concern the individual family—whether to buy or rent; recent reductions in interest rates and down payments; what makes houses cost so much.

The pamphlet also considers the

future of home building as an industry, the trend toward prefabrication and the utilization of new materials. It points out the advantages to be gained from the use of standard parts and materials and possibilities in using machinery in house building. The industry must be reorganized, trade restraints removed, building codes revised, and new methods of selling and leasing devised. Private industry may not be able to produce housing for the lowest income families without governmental aid.

This pamphlet is based on a 1944 publication of the Committee on Housing of the Twentieth Century Fund, New York, entitled *American Housing: Problems and Prospects*. *Maud Wilson, Oregon State College*.

All work and no play makes Jack—

E. R. JACKMAN, Extension Specialist in Farm Crops, Oregon

■ When the war first hauled extension workers unceremoniously from our comfortable, warm, peacetime rut and put us on a plateau where we were exposed to wind and weather, there was a short period of shivering indecision. Opposing forces were charging furiously in every direction. One governmental agency would tell us to do some certain thing, and thereafter it seemed for a time that five other agencies would conspire to make that accomplishment impossible. Some of us had, as a chief concern, the desire to get out of the way so we would not be run over. Others of us plunged into the sea of confusion and found, to our amazement, that the scene was not altogether chaos and that the general movement was forward. Still others, like the famous desperate rejected lover of medieval times, mounted several horses and galloped madly away in every direction.

I think that some of us have made a few mistakes in attitude. We always make errors in performance;

but errors in attitude are more serious because they affect other people and, to some extent, affect the work of the whole organization. I plead guilty to one error—that of commiserating with county agents.

It was an easy thing to do. The county agent was charged with administering all kinds of boards and committees. His vocabulary changed from such well-worn words as "pests," "diseases," "bulls," and "seed" to a new outlandish gibberish featuring "quotas," "PD 200," "MPR 496," "2A," and "3C," and, as the farm auctioneers say, "other items too numerous to mention." Amendments to amendments accumulated on top of interpretations of interpretations. His office was filled with irate or confused and hurt people who kept murmuring, "I thought they wanted me to help win the war." Probably in the entire Nation there is no other group of civilians so insistently and continuously called upon for new work as are the county agents. It was a dull week that failed to dump a

new duty upon them.

All of this worried them when they had a minute to think of it. But in the main they responded splendidly. Their years of training in organization methods made it possible in most counties for them to appoint working committees, segregate job from job, and accomplish miracles. But at this point, the visiting specialist or administrator might arrive, look over the frenzied activity, and start to weep with the county agent because of the overwork.

Other people caught the idea, and in the end we saw isolated examples of county agents turning down jobs because they were already overworked. There was a tendency, too, for central staff people to shelve needed programs rather than to add to the burdens of overbusy men.

Just as a young mother wonders how in the world she spent her time in the pre-baby days, the county agents wonder what they did before their numerous war-baby jobs came to live with them. This sudden deluge of work has called forth buried talents, unknown before. Practically every county agent is doing at least twice as much work as he formerly did, and this is all to the good.

Capacity for work is partly inherited, but it is partly developed; and the more work one does the more he can do. On our western livestock ranches it is always the owner of the well-run ranch who can take time off for a committee meeting.

War Activities Are Setting-up Exercises

As a direct result of the ready acceptance of job after job, and the evident competence of performance, Extension, as a whole, is in the best position with the public that it has ever known. The war activities have served as setting-up exercises that have built up the stature and strength of all the men.

So I have decided to do no more crying with people because of overwork. Henry Kaiser is building ships of all kinds in our Portland backyard. I've never heard of anyone saying to him: "You poor boy! You shouldn't be building all of those ships. It's a crime. They should have left you with your old work. You had enough to do the way it was."

Among Ourselves

L. A. Bevan appointed



■ Laurence A. Bevan, extension director of New Jersey, joined the Federal Extension Service on January 1. In his new post in Washington Director Bevan will work with the administration and coordination of extension programs in agriculture and home economics in the Northeastern States. During this year Mr. Bevan, who has had extensive experience in agricultural marketing, will spend part of his time investigating the marketing of farm products. Involved in this appointment is an experiment in cooperative relationships between the State and Federal offices of the Cooperative Extension Service.

"In the immediate future Mr. Bevan will devote a good deal of his time to an investigation of national marketing problems conducted by the House Agricultural Committee under the direction of its chairman, Congressman John W. Flannagan of Virginia.

Since his graduation from Massachusetts State College in 1913 Mr. Bevan has had considerable experience in extension work. In the early days of extension work, he was county agricultural agent in Fairfield County, Conn., and later in Berkshire County, Mass. He was agricultural

agent for the Boston Chamber of Commerce for 2 years. In 1928 he became director of the Division of Markets in Massachusetts, leaving there in 1935 to join the Rutgers University staff as extension economist in marketing. Mr. Bevan was promoted to the directorship in 1939.

Mr. Bevan has achieved much in the field of marketing. As assistant manager of a potato corporation in Vermont, he introduced packaged potatoes to stores in southern New England. In Massachusetts he expanded the market reporting work, assisted in organizing egg auctions, promulgated brands and grades of eggs, strawberries, and other farm products, and started an inspection service with the USDA. In 1940 he was given a 3 months' leave of absence from Rutgers to develop a marketing program for the million-and-a-quarter-acre area irrigated by the Columbia River Basin system in the Northwest.

Farmers from Sussex to Cape May in New Jersey have made wide use of Mr. Bevan's knowledge of the problems of distributing and merchandising farm products. He has also helped the Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics in making studies of wholesale produce markets in Philadelphia and New York City.

Dr. R. C. Clothier, president of Rutgers University, has announced that Dr. W. H. Martin, dean and director of the New Jersey College of Agriculture and Experiment Station, will also carry on the administration of the Extension Service. He will be assisted by Lindley G. Cook as associate director.

■ T. M. CAMPBELL has arrived in Leopoldville, Belgian Congo, Africa, on the first lap of his trip to study rural educational problems in West Africa. Next, he goes to the Gold Coast, then Nigeria and the Cameroons. Well known in Negro extension work since the passage of the Smith-Lever Act, Mr. Campbell is in charge of the Negro work in the southern tier of States, with headquarters in Tuskegee, Ala. He is on leave of absence from the Extension Service.

■ DIRECTOR JOHN R. HUTCHESON of Virginia was given a silver service by members of the staff at the annual conference to commemorate his twenty-fifth anniversary in Extension Service. Certificates of 25 or more years of service were also presented to Director Hutcheson and Assistant Director Montgomery; R. Belle Burke, Sally Guy Davis, and Sylvia Slocum, district home demonstration agents; J. G. Bruce, H. E. McSwain, and B. A. Warriner, district farm demonstration agents; Hallie L. Hughes and G. A. Elcan, State 4-H Club agents; C. E. Seitz, head of the agricultural engineering department; J. S. Schaeffer, clerk; W. H. Byrne, '15, agronomist; Martha C. Cook and Mabel P. Massey, county home demonstration agents; W. R. Linthicum, Spotsylvania; H. W. Ozlin, '12, Princess Anne; W. F. Michaux, Powhatan; O. B. Ross, '16, Amherst; J. C. Stiles, '03, Ashland; W. W. Wilkins, South Boston; and N. H. Williams, Jr., '17, Chatham, county agricultural agents.

■ MILTON L. FLACK, extension dairyman in Nebraska since September 1, 1924, died suddenly while attending a State Holstein sale in Omaha. Words can hardly express the loss suffered not only by the Extension Service but also by the dairy industry in Nebraska. He was a tireless worker and largely responsible for the current interest and sound development in artificial breeding of dairy cattle.

■ France, September 12, 1944. Just a line to let you know I finally made it O. K. Had a nice trip over and really enjoyed most of it, although it got tiresome toward the end. Everything seems to be pretty well under control in this section, and the people are getting back to normal. The towns are pretty badly torn up, but farm life goes on as usual. Farms are small, surrounded by hedges and lots of orchards. Livestock is rather scarce but there are quite a few cattle. Haven't seen any of the Percheron horses France is supposed to be famous for.—S/Sgt. F. D. Engler, Clark County Agent, Kans.

Pinch-hitting does it

■ Plans to meet the 1945 farm-labor shortage, which gives little indication of improvement, are based on the experience of the past 2 years. Minnesota county agents are almost unanimous in the verdict that hitting in the pinches turned the tide in bumper harvests of the past two seasons and that the hitting in the pinches was done largely by townspeople who donned workshirts and overalls and answered the call to save the crops.

The movement to mobilize business and professional people in villages and cities through local committees arranged by the Extension Service got under way during the crop year of 1943. It took quickly, in spite of reluctance on the part of farmers to recognize this type of labor as significant. Forgetting that these clerks and grocers, garage mechanics and lawyers, school teachers and dentists were, many of them, former farm boys who had gone to town, farmers were skeptical of the effectiveness of the twilight brigades that took to the fields after business closed in town.

County Agent John Dysart of Alexandria, Douglas County, Minn., re-

ports that the good record of 1943 convinced farm people that here was a source of help that could save the day. Hence, in 1944 there were plenty of requests from farmers; and the townspeople responded again in large numbers, proving that they meant business and were not out just for a lark. In Douglas County alone, more than 2,000 emergency placements, covering 300 farms, were made during the harvest season. The roll call of placements from towns and villages of the county runs like this: Garfield, 268; Carlos, 205; Miltona, 216; Evansville, 194; Kensington, 147; Brandon, 151; Osakis, 146; Nelson, 58; and Alexandria, 484. The program was handled by local committees working under the advisership of County Agent Dysart and his assistant, George P. Lord, aided also by the U. S. Employment Service and the Selective Service Board.

The Douglas County experience is typical of what has happened during the past 2 years in most Minnesota counties. That is why farmers face the future with greater confidence in spite of the heavier demands of Selective Service.

To help 4-H Clubs

■ The trustees of the Cooper Foundation in Lincoln, Nebr., allocated a quarter million dollars to assist Nebraska boys and girls in improving livestock over an indefinite period of time.

The \$250,000 appropriation will be set up for a dual purpose. It will be used to build better citizens of farm boys and girls through the 4-H Club movement and at the same time to help improve the standard of Nebraska's dairy stock. The plan calls for direct cooperation with the Nebraska Extension Service.

"The Cooper Foundation was organized in 1934 with the purpose of assisting in educating and caring for children. It is intensely interested in doing anything that will stimulate the growth and development of not only the livestock industry but, of more importance, the boys and girls themselves," said M. V. Beghtol, chairman

of the Cooper Foundation subcommittee.

"The Foundation has watched the progress of 4-H Club members for some time and feels that anything that can be done to further the movement will be for the betterment of not only the youths themselves but also the State of Nebraska and the Nation."

Detailed plans for setting up of the plan for the expansion of 4-H dairy clubs, in particular, and of better livestock on farms were not announced immediately. It is contemplated, however, that several hundred head of dairy calves may be placed in the hands of boys and girls who are interested in better dairy livestock.

Tentative plans call for the boys and girls to pay for a portion of the cost of the animals, and "sponsors" will probably bear the balance of the

cost. A continuous 4-H dairy calf club movement will probably then be set up with the youths returning some of the offspring to the Foundation for redistribution.

In all probability, scholarships to the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture will go to the boys and girls that care for the dairy animals and do the best job of feeding, managing, and exhibiting of the calves.

In turn, the Cooper Foundation believes that the standards of Nebraska's dairy industry may be raised by tying the project in with artificial insemination work now being done in the eastern part of the State. The project also would be correlated further with the highly bred bulls now in the college herd through artificial insemination and afford better breeding for farm herds than has previously been possible.

Eighteen head of purebred dairy stock were previously given to the University of Nebraska Foundation for use in improving Nebraska's dairy industry through artificial insemination. These cattle were purchased from some of the best herds in the United States, and one of the bulls is now in use in the Lancaster County Cooperative Breeders Association.

Meeting room for farmers

A farmers' meeting room was incorporated, as a new idea in courthouse construction, when the supervisors of Outagamie County, Wis., built a courthouse in 1942. County Agent J. F. Magnus reports that this feature has since proved its value to rural residents of the county.

The purpose of the room, seating 80 persons comfortably and 100 when necessary, is to provide a place for agricultural meetings.

The room adjoins the county agent's office and is used in connection with the work of the county agricultural committee. Open not only to farmers and extension workers but also to such groups as war bond committees, the USO, and the Red Cross, the room is in frequent use. Because of its location near the records and materials in the county agent's office, the courthouse room has proved effective in extension work of the county. Its location also makes it easy to set up displays in connection with the agent's office.



Extension agents join fighting forces

Ten extension workers have made the supreme sacrifice. More than 1,300 extensioners serve their country in the armed forces. These men and women are in many parts of the world and in various branches of the service. Sometimes their experiences are a far cry from those of pre-war days. News of their doings and excerpts from their letters are printed on this page.

Extension's Gold Stars

J. L. Daniels, formerly assistant county agent in Madison County, Ala., died, as a result of wounds received at Guadalcanal, in December 1942. He was in the Marines.

Lt. A. D. Curlee, formerly county agent in Alabama, Army, killed in action April 6, 1943.

Ensign Tom Parkinson, formerly assistant county agent in Henry County, Ind., Navy, missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Capt. Frank C. Shipman, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.

1st Lt. Leo M. Tupper, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.

William Flake Bowles, formerly assistant agent in Watauga County, N. C., Army, reported missing in action on the Italian front.

Ensign Robert H. Bond, of the Federal Extension staff, Washington, D. C., Navy, reported missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Capt. J. B. Holton, formerly county agent in La Salle Parish, La., was killed in action in Europe during the invasion, June 9.

Capt. Frank Wayne, formerly county agent in Bernalillo County, N. Mex., killed in a vehicle accident in England.

Kenneth C. Hanks, formerly county agent in Stevens County, Minn., has been reported killed in action in France November 16, 1944.

Warren Teel in Guam

Since writing last, I have traveled a large portion of the Pacific. Was in the Marshall Islands, then on to my present location on Guam. My division landed on Guam with a Marine unit and had good luck in gaining control of this island. Guam is comparable to Hawaii as for terrain. Rainfall is abundant. Lots of jungle. We have some beautiful coconut trees, large banana trees, flies, and mosquitoes. The native population is very happy over its freedom. The Jap soldiers treated them in a harsh manner, according to reports and their appearance. From all newscasts, the Allies are doing well, so perhaps the war's end is not too far distant. Everything is under control over here! —Lt. Warren Teel, Jefferson County Agent, Kans.

Pilot of 51 Missions

"When this is all over, I hope to come back and work with the Extension Service as county agricultural agent," said Capt. Leslie C. Gates, pilot of a B-17 and former assistant county agricultural agent for Bexar County, Tex., in a recent article in The Extensioner. Captain Gates has just returned from 10 months overseas duty, during which time he completed 51 missions while based in North Africa and Italy.

For bombing installations in Marseille, Capt. Gates was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. "We had quite a battle up there that day," he said, "the ship got pretty badly shot up. Going into the target, we were

hit by 50 German fighters, and for a little while they concentrated on my ship." On this mission, an engine of Capt. Gates' plane was shot out, control cables shot away, cannon shells came into the cockpit from all directions, and the instrument panel was demolished. Three gunners in his plane were wounded. "But we made it back to the base," he said with a modest grin.

The former extension worker has been awarded, in addition to the DFC, the air medal, with six oak leaf clusters; and he wears the European theater ribbon with two gold stars, one representing the Italian campaign, the other, the battle of Europe. He has hit such targets as Rome, Marseille, Toulon, points in northern Italy, both ends of the Brenner Pass, Vienna, Wiener-Neustadt, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest, Sofia, Ploesti, and Athens. After one mission the service squad found more than 1,750 holes in the ship.

"One of the most interesting missions I made, and the last one, was the first shuttle bombing mission to Russia," he stated. "We were the first combat squadron to go over, and we weren't sure how we would be received; but they gave us a royal reception." He was in Russia 2 weeks. Taking off from Italy, his squadron bombed a target in Hungary, proceeded to Russia and made other raids from there.

Battle front stories

Sitting at a county agent's desk is a far different experience from being in the front lines of battle, Lt. (j. g.) Sam T. Logan, U. S. Naval Reserve, and Lt. Col. H. B. Haeglin, former county agricultural agents of Bailey and Duval Counties, Tex., agree. Lt. Logan, who recently visited his wife and daughter at Muleshoe, was aboard a Liberty Ship which was torpedoed

while carrying soldiers and war cargo to the Normandy beachhead, according to the Navy public relations office at New Orleans. Lt. Logan was commander of the Navy gun crew when the attack took place. The ship was set afire and rendered unable to proceed under its own power. The flames were brought under control, and the vessel was towed back to the English coast where it was beached and the cargo discharged. "The blast from that lone torpedo was terrific," Logan said, "and the soldiers in the section of the ship struck had a pretty tough time of it."

Col. Haeglin never dreamed 11 years ago when he began working for the Texas Extension Service that he would one day be walking through the streets of Pompeii or landing at Anzio beachhead, but recently he returned from Italy to tell interesting phases of both experiences. He sailed for foreign duty in December 1943. It was while fighting on the Anzio beachhead that his helmet was punctured by a shell fragment.

Among the many side trips which he enjoyed while in Italy were those to ancient landmarks and old churches. His trip to Pompeii, an ancient Italian city located at the foot of Mt. Vesuvius about 15 miles southeast of Naples, offered him the opportunity to see the narrow streets, theaters, gladiatorial barracks, and an amphitheater which were once buried by the eruption of the nearby volcano.

With the Third U. S. Army

You are no doubt aware of some of the accomplishments of the Third U. S. Army. I am proud to be with it here in France. My work deals with the supplying engineer units. We find that no matter how many hours per day we work or how fast, we still have plenty to do. It takes lots of machinery and materials to win a war, of which the engineers use no little part.

The months I spent in England were quite enjoyable. When we first arrived, our headquarters needed various supplies for the office and construction, and for nearly a month it was my job to get them. This work took me to many interesting places including Liverpool, Manchester, Stratford on Avon, Nottingham, Oxford, Chester, and other places; but to my disappointment I didn't get to

London. One trip took me southwest of London, but having four large trucks in convoy it was too much of a detour for sightseeing.

Lots of towns have been badly torn up here in France, but there is also an abundance of beauty that war will never destroy. Especially interesting in the sections where I have been are the beautiful churches, the well-kept orchards, the ways of tilling the soil, and methods of crop rotation; and outstanding is the strip farming which is practiced a great deal. Everywhere I have been the people are very courteous and generous. We have no trouble getting all the eggs, wine, cognac, champagne, fruits, and vegetables we want; so if that's what morale depends on, ours should be near the top, and it surely is.—*Sgt. R. G. Merryfield, former assistant agricultural agent, Cloud County, Kansas.*

The Netherland East Indies and Australia

At last we have a new home and find it quite different from the one we had in Australia, which was only about 60 miles out of Brisbane. At present we are on an island in the Netherland East Indies, and I am really glad to get up farther and see a bit more. There is a lot of work ahead of us to get our new location into shape, but we have some pretty good fellows who are willing to do it. In a very short time we shall have things much more convenient and comfortable.

It is very hot here, especially during the middle of the day; but the nights are cool. It often gets very damp by morning. So far (October 25) it has rained some every day but just enough to cool things off. Many of us have a few sunburns. Others, however, are nearly as black as the natives. We are situated close to the water which allows us plenty of swimming. Always manage to go in once a day and sometimes, if work permits, twice a day. There isn't much of a beach, and there is a lot of coral which isn't too pleasant on the feet; but the water is there, and it is fine.

We are taking all precautions against malaria; but, fortunately, only a few mosquitoes are about. There are a great many other insects,

but it is doubtful if they will give us much trouble.

While near Brisbane, I attended one of their large stock shows, the first held for several years. It was a privilege to see some of the best cattle in Australia. One of the Hereford bulls sold for 4,000 guineas, or approximately \$12,000; another bull sold for 1,000 guineas. Some of them bring pretty fair prices.

While watching some of the judging at the show, a few of the breeders found that I was interested; and so I had several discussions with them concerning their herds. It also happened that one of the newspaper men took a few statements for his paper. I felt almost as if I were back on the job again.—*Sgt. Evans Banbury, formerly Sherman County agent, Kansas.*

In Belgium and Holland

Some time in October 1944, Lt. Jesse W. Skinner, former agricultural agent in Harlan County, Nebr., wrote from Belgium. He described the area west of Paris as resembling sections of flat country in eastern Nebraska but with much smaller fields. The productivity of the soil and the percentage of land under cultivation increased as he went north to Belgium. Farming methods, however, are old fashioned. Few horses are used, but great numbers of oxen and even milk cows are used for hard work. Two-way walking plows, carts, rakes, mowers, and threshing machines are the main implements. There are only a few tractors. The soil is well fertilized, and all the fertilizer is transported on carts or wagons. He said that he had not seen a mechanical spreader since he left the States. Potatoes and sugar beets are important crops in Belgium. He also said that the food had been good except for a few times when his outfit moved ahead faster than the supply lines. And, finally, he repeated that old saying of his that he was glad to be "on the winning team," and that it made them all feel "as if they would get the pennant in a short time."

More recently, he wrote from Holland, reporting a lot of rain. He said he would like to bring back some of the Belgian horses found there because they are a lighter type than those in the States and would just fill the needs on Nebraska farms.

The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

ARTHUR ROBINSON, associate extension editor in Colorado, died suddenly on January 4. Art had been with the extension editorial office since 1928 and was well known among his coworkers in Colorado and throughout the country for his good nature and conscientious work. He was born in Marshalltown, Iowa, attended the University of Colorado, served in the First World War as an Army Medical Corps staff sergeant and after the war as a reporter, feature writer, and State editor for the Denver Post until he joined the Colorado Extension Service.

A NEW BULLETIN, welcome to home demonstration agents, on house dresses and aprons, is just off the press. A style revue of these work outfits given to the extension staff in Washington a few months ago, and also to those attending the outlook conference, received much favorable comment. Each of the 15 original designs pictured in the new bulletin has passed a rigid five-way work-and-wear test. Each garment is comfortable, has safety-first features, is time- and energy-saving, is durable in material and workmanship, and, last but not least, is attractive. Patterns for these scientifically designed garments are available from commercial pattern companies. Copies of the bulletin are available in quantity through the State office.

TO LOCATE LEADERSHIP, Oregon is working on a leadership survey in two communities in each of six counties in the State. The purpose of this survey is to locate present leadership and use this sample as a guide in developing extension leadership. *4-H Club Week, March 3 to 11.*

FOR AGENTS OVERSEAS, Colorado prepared a 2-page Christmas folder, gay on red, white, and blue paper and pictures of the staff taken at the 1944 State Extension Conference. Special messages from Director Anderson, from Edna L. Stack for the Home Demonstration Agents' Association, and D. L. McMillen for the County Agents' Association gave it a per-

sonal message of cheer—in fact, the title of the publication was Cheerio. The names of the 13 members of the staff in the armed forces were inscribed on a scroll.

OFF FOR PARIS is L. V. Toyne, former Weld County agent, Greeley, Colo., having changed his county agent title to assistant agricultural attache to the U. S. Embassy in France. Leaving Colorado late in January, he is spending this month in Washington learning the ropes in the State Department and the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A former president of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, he is well known among agents in all parts of the country. His long experience as agent in Weld County has given him a detailed knowledge of agriculture in one of the leading agricultural counties which should stand him in good stead in his new job.

4-H LEADER TRAINING SCHOOLS of 3 or more days are proving useful in getting the program into high gear in the Western States. In Nevada, leaders met at the university in Reno, February 8 to 10. Oregon, one of the pioneers in this field,

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scheduled its training school March 1 to 7. *National 4-H Club Week, March 3 to 11.*

FARM TRACTOR MAINTENANCE SHORT COURSES are planned in 14 Central and Western States from November through March. State club leaders, working with the extension engineers, The National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, the engineering department of the college, and commercial companies, have worked out the plans. One leader, a 4-H boy or local club leader from each county is brought into the short course. Courses last from 2 to 6 days. *National 4-H Club Week, March 3 to 11.*

FAT SALVAGE will be one of the war programs needing the attention of extension agents in the next few months. Home demonstration agents and war food assistants cooperated in each of 10 counties in 8 different States by making a spot survey of about 15 homes to find out approximately the amount of fat available in rural homes. This was completed about January 15.

RADIO WORKSHOP for wounded veterans of overseas service in Mayo General Hospital at Galesburg, Ill., was equipped by 4-H Clubs of the State. With 36,000 members, the club raised \$1,700 through scrap drives, socials, auctions, and dances. This was in addition to 3 field ambulances which have been presented to the armed forces in the last 2 years by Illinois club members. Two Illinois counties have also financed an army ambulance. The 500 members in Greene County raised \$2,000 with which an ambulance was bought and presented on November 18 while McHenry County presented theirs in September. *4-H Club Week, March 3 to 11.*

GOING SOUTH, Director Aubrey Gates of Arkansas is visiting seven Central and South American countries as an official representative of the State Department in a study of farming conditions and of extension education. Arriving in Quito, Ecuador, last month, he was joined by Dr. Fred Frutche of the Federal Extension office who is gathering data on extension programs and needs in a number of South American countries.